

Elsewhere, \$2.00 a year. in advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, AUG. 24, 1961

History of Poage Lane Church

The first church to be built in what is now the Poage Lane community was an old log church. It was built on land belonging to the Beverage family and was near what is now the Earl Beverage home. While it was dedicated Union Chapel, it was always called Beverage.

The deed for the land was given on November 26, 1873, by Jacob Beverage, Sr., and Susan his wife. to I. Walton Allen, Levi Beverage William B. Hannah, John A. Beverage and Isaac Shinaberry, trustees. The church was built and dedicated the following year, 1874 Marcus Waugh tongued and grooved lumber for the ceiling by hand. The deed stated it was to be used by the members and friends of the various denominations living within convenient distance of said house of worship. The president of the board was to see that all denominations contributing toward the erection of said house be given equal privileges. Any party wantonly and willfully violating any of the provisions of the deed so as to create disturbances to any extent shall forfeit his use to such house. It was used by all branches of Methodist and by the Brethren from 1874 to 1890. Then on April 28, 1890, Jacob Beverage, Jr., and his wife, Rachel, made a second deed leaving the property to the Methodist, with John A. Beverage, William A.

(Page 2)

POCAHONTAS TIMES

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JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, FEB. 23, 1961

Poet Laureate

The townspeople of Keyser, where Dr. Louise McNeill Pease is a professor at Potomac State College, last week purchased space in the Hillbilly to support their proposal for the naming of Louise McNeill as the Poet Laureate of West Virginia. And we, of her native Pocahontas, gladly add our voices for a vote of acclamation. Dr. Pease, writing under her maiden name of Louise McNeill (she is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. G. D. McNeill of Buckeye), is the author of the book of poems, "Gauley Mountain," and many others that have been published in nationally-known magazines. She knows the history of her people and is a fitting candidate for the honored title.

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Pioneer Days

Many people think Saturday's crowd was the biggest ever in Marlinton. Whether a record or not, it was a big crowd. We understand an out-of-county policeman estimated nine thousand. The streets looked festive, store window exhibits were excellent, lots of interesting activities, and everybody entered into the work and fun.

The presence of Pearl S. Buck heightened the interest of many. The seminar programs at Hillsboro were excellent, ending too quickly. Miss Buck gave of herself to many functions, staying at the Allegheny Lodge. If you didn't get to the Friday night program you missed something special, with both Miss Buck and Louise McNeill Pease, plus about the best music we ever heard.

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Pearl Buck

Noted author and humanitarian Pearl S. Buck will be accompanied by her daughter and six grandchildren when she participates as a speaker and panelist in the First Annual Pearl S. Buck Seminar on "Quality of Living" at Hillsboro.

This seminar will be open to the public and will commemorate the initial stages of the restoration of her birthplace. Miss Buck and her family will also be touring points in the Pocahontas and Greenbrier County areas associated with her ancestors' early life in West Virginia.

The first session on the "Quality of Living" seminar will be held July 9, at Hillsboro High School, and will focus its attention on the Aesthetic and Philosophical Consideration of Ecology and Environment in the life of modern man. The second session scheduled July 10 will deal with "Methods to Bring About Change." In addition to Miss Buck, an ecologist, educator, industrialist, and a student will participate in the panel discussions.

Miss Buck is the only woman ever to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and she received the Pulitzer Prize for her novel, *The Good Earth*, as well as many other awards for her literary and humanitarian works. Miss Buck is generally recognized as the world's most widely read author. She has written over seventy books and an untold number of magazine articles and short stories. Miss Buck will join Mrs. Louise McNeill Pease, poet, for the program Friday evening, July 10, at the Museum and will be the Honorary Marshal of the Pioneer Days Parade set for 2 p. m. Saturday, July 11.

Air Service

LA, MARCH 16, 1964

George Douglas McNeill

George Douglas McNeill, 86, of Buckeye, died at his home Sunday, March 22, 1964, after a long illness.

Born at Buckeye May 22, 1877, he was a son of the late James and Frances Perkins McNeill.

His wife, Mrs. Marietta Grace McNeill, died July 1, 1961.

He was a member of the Marlinton Methodist Church and the Masonic Lodge at Marlinton.

Mr. McNeill spent 42 years in the school system of Pocahontas County, first teaching when he was 17 years old at Buckeye. He was County Superintendent 1919-1923 and then served as principal of Marlinton High School until 1941, when he became professor of history at Davis and Elkins College. He retired in 1955. A vast reservoir of historical fact, he was the author of "The Last Forest" and "Tales of Pocahontas County."

Mr. McNeill attended Draughon's Business College and received his LL. B. and LL. M. degrees from the National University Law School in Washington. He served as prosecuting attorney in the early 1900's. In 1906 he joined the Navy and went on the "Round the World" tour of the U. S. Fleet. For his tales of this experience "G. D." was best known to his many students. He had a B. A. degree from Concord College, an M. A. degree from Miami University (Ohio) and an honorary LL. D. degree from Davis and Elkins.

Survivors include two sons, James McNeill, of Buckeye, and Ward K. McNeill, of Columbus, Ohio; two daughters, Mrs. C. P. Dorsey, of Morgantown, and Mrs. Roger Pease, of Athens; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon in the Marlinton Methodist Church by the Rev. George McCune and the Rev. Ezra Bennett. Burial was in the Buckeye Cemetery.

The Seneca Annual Staff for the 1927 year book has been elected and solicits the support of all the patrons and friends of the school. We will be around to see you and we will need your help to make this Annual a success. We hope to publish an Annual that will make you proud of us and that will be a credit to our school.

The staff officers are as follows:

Editor, Reta Reirode, assistant editor, Anna Dennison, business manager, Grady Moore, sales manager, Edith Kelmenson, art editor, Edith May, poet, Virginia Neal, historian, Louise McNeill, athletics, Jess Wiley, humor, Addison McNeill, will, Helen Smith, prophecy Gaynell Moore.

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PARADE MARSHAL

Louise McNeill Pease is the 1979 Pioneer Days Honorary Parade Marshal. This daughter of Pocahontas is a well-known poet and this year was named Poet Laureate of the State of West Virginia. She will read some of her poetry on Friday night at "Mementos of the Rolling Years."

(See Page Eight)

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already known by that name as author of two books, this was not allowable; which has caused her some awkwardness over the years. At 68, however, she has learned to accept with amusement the minor confusion about the several names associated with her various roles as poet, scholar, and mother.

To her colleagues and students over the past 30 years at West Virginia University, Potomac State College, Concord College, and Fairmont College, she has been known as Dr. Pease, while readers of her poetry know her as Louise McNeill. Still others know her as Mrs. Roger Pease, wife and mother to their son Douglas. "It's simpler just to call me Louise," she now says.

Retired in 1973 as Professor of History at Fairmont College, she and her husband now live in Lewisburg.

Dr. Pease says that the idea for ELDERBERRY FLOOD has been in her mind for some 20 years and that she had made several outlines for a history of West Virginia in poetic form. But it was not until the fall of 1977, some 40 years after the publication of GAULEY MOUNTAIN, that the book was actually written during a "strenuous 6 months." While GAULEY MOUNTAIN was essentially a book of lore and fiction, the concept for ELDERBERRY FLOOD demanded a greater challenge to work within the restrictions of history and fact to be rendered in poetic form.

The Department of Culture and History will publish the book, along with a recording of fiddler Woody Simmons, as the first in a series of publications and records to be produced under the imprint "Elderberry." The book will be sold through The Shop and through its marketing program. The Department of Education will also sponsor a special edition to be distributed throughout the state's schools for use as a supplementary text.

GAULEY MOUNTAIN and PARADOX HILL are for sale at the Pocahontas County Historical Museum.



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NEW

gins from the time before it was settled up to modern times. The book, through a joint effort between the Governor, the De-

partment of Culture and History and the Department of Education, will be made available to all students studying West Virginia history.

Louise McNeill Pease's published volumes of poetry includes "Mountain White," "Gauley Mountain" (which includes a foreword by Stephen Vincent Benet with jacket comments by Louis Untermeyer and Archibald MacLeish), "Time is Our House," "From a Dark Mountain," "Paradox Hill," "From Appalachia to Lunar Shore," with jacket comments by Jesse Stuart and Louis Untermeyer, and "The Great Kanawha River in the Old South."

In addition, she's had articles published in more than 19 magazines, among them American Mercury, Atlantic Monthly, Harper's Saturday Review, Saturday Evening Post (over a 20-year period), Ladies Home Journal, Commonwealth, Appalachian Review, Good Housekeeping, and the Christian Science Monitor.

Dr. Pease, a native of Pocahontas County, received her early education in rural schools to which she later returned as a teach-

Mrs. Ken Swiger, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Pyles, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Clendenen and

The cake was made by Mrs. Helen Sharp. Nice gifts were received and a good time was had by all.

er. She earned degrees at Concord College (A.B.), Miami University of Ohio (M. A.), West Virginia University (Ph.D) and also studied at Ohio University.

She taught for 30 years at schools including Aiken (S.C.) Preparatory School, West Virginia University, Potomac State College, Concord College and Fairmont State College.

In 1973, Dr. Pease retired to devote time to her writing. She was honored by the West Virginia Society in Washington as the 1978 "West Virginia Daughter of the Year," at the same event at which Governor Rockefeller was named "Son of the Year."

Her other honors include an Atlantic Monthly poetry prize, and having a prize for poetry established in her name at Morris Harvey College.

Dr. Pease is married to Roger W. Pease, formerly of Ashfield, Massachusetts. They have one son, Douglas, who resides in Storrs, Connecticut.

D & E College
Max Morath

Max Morath, an accomplished actor and monologist as well as a versatile pianist, will be combining his affection for the



Birthday

Mrs. Mamie Geiger Kellison observed her 89th birthday at her home in Lively, Virginia, February 7, 1979. Mr. and Mrs. Kellison and son, Wayne, are former residents of Marlinton. Mr. and Mrs. Kellison were married in 1920.

Mrs. Kellison and her sister, Eva Gwin, are the only living grandchildren of German emigrants to this country.

Their grandfather built the grist mill on Stony Creek that was later called the Waugh Mill and now has been rebuilt at Babcock State Park.

Mrs. Betty Bennett, of Lively, and Virginia and

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Hospital Patients

Marlinton—Ruby Stimeling,
Eula Moses, Debra Waugh,
Darrel Hansford, Paul Irvine,
Thomas W. Smith.

Baltimore, Maryland—Helen
VanRensen.

Arbovale—Harry C. Gillispie.

Durbin—Henry Lee Stokes,
Mrs. Beulah Stokes.

Front Royal, Virginia—Neal
Sharp.

Green Bank—Lucy Crowley,
Frances Taylor.

Cass—Eugene King.

Slatyfork—Zella Galford.

Minnehaha Springs—Otis
Lester.

Stony Bottom—Corene
Waugh.

Seebert—Laura Johnson,
Neal Wilson.

Cooks:

Durbin Elementary School
Mrs. Velma H. Sutton
Mrs. Kathleen B. Colaw
Mrs. Marie Nottingham (part-
time)

Green Bank Elementary
Mrs. Icie V. Murphy
Mrs. Evelyn G. Beverage
Mrs. Fairy H. Sheets
Mrs. Betty Gum
Hillsboro Elementary School
Mrs. Sally Scott
Mrs. Annie F. Rock
Mrs. Anita M. Rose

Marlinton Elementary School
Mrs. Louise Barnisky
Mrs. Goldie Kellison
Mrs. Lottie McKenney
Mrs. Edith Triplett
Mrs. Grace Landis
Mrs. Naomi Miller
Mrs. Ruth Shanahan (part-
time)

Pocahontas County High School

David F. Shibley
Mrs. Grace Galford
Mrs. Nina C. Brooks
Mrs. Irene Sharp
Mrs. Jane Oliver
Mrs. Mae Corbett (part-time)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mi-
chael, of Newport News, Vir-
ginia, spent last weekend with
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Michael,
and Mrs. Vivian Isom, of Fair-
lea.

HONORED

The Board of Governors of
the International Platform As-
sociation announces the elec-
tion to IPA membership of
Louise McNeill Pease.

The International Platform
Association membership is
composed of distinguished
and dedicated persons from
fifty-five nations. Its ances-
tor, the American Lyceum As-
sociation out of which the IPA
evolved, was founded one hun-
dred fifty years ago by Daniel
Webster.

HONORED

The Board of Governors of the International Platform Association announces the election to IPA membership of Louise McNeill Pease.

The International Platform Association membership is composed of distinguished and dedicated persons from fifty-five nations. Its ancestor, the American Lyceum Association out of which the IPA evolved, was founded one hundred fifty years ago by Daniel Webster.

Hannah, Thomas Aldridge, I. W. Allen and Jacob Beverage as trustees.

Some of the early members of the church were Jacob Beverage, Sr., Susan Beverage, Levi Beverage, Jane Beverage, Jacob Beverage, Jr., Rachel Beverage, John Beverage, Mary Beverage, Walton Allen, Eliza Allen, Abraham Shinaberry, Mildred Shinaberry, Isaac Shinaberry, Jerusha Shinaberry, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Shinaberry, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Kremer, Mr. and Mrs. William Hannah, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Shinaberry, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Ware, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Carr, Mr. and Mrs. James Friel; Rev. Joseph Beverage was one of the ministers of the church.

In 1908 the home of Charles Shinaberry was destroyed by fire and John Beverage gave him the lumber out of this church to help in rebuilding his home. One of the pews out of the church is still in the Shinnaberry house. By 1900 many of these people had moved away or died so another section of the community had become more thickly populated, therefore the church service was transferred to the Poage Lane School House. (now the home of Dewey Hoover). This school house was used for church services and other community activities until 1919 when the Woods Poage Chapel was built. The people of the community had a chance to buy a church that had been built by the lumber company at Winter-

His work as a plant breeder and as the chief architect of his company's plant breeding programs, has responded to the critical needs of agricultural and food production in the U. S. and abroad.

Dr. Brown has been active in the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources through his activities as a member of the National Academy of Sciences committees on preservation and indigenous strains of maize as well as vulnerability of major food crops.

He has served on the President's Science Advisory Committee on World Food Supply and the National Germplasm Committee, and has been an advisor to the Joint United States Department of Agriculture - State Agricultural Experiment Station task force on corn and grain sorghum.

He has lectured throughout the world on the subject of maize breeding, maize genetics and cytogenetics and the evaluation of maize and germplasm conservation and utilization.

His scientific contributions are illuminated by his strong concerns for peace and social justice, and he has worked at promoting tighter links between scientists in academia and those in commercial settings.

Dr. Brown received his undergraduate degree from Bridgewater College and his master's and Ph.D. from Washington University. He will be awarded the Doctor of Science degree at WVU's commencement.

Residents of Johnston, Iowa, Dr. Brown and his wife, Alice

mid-1940's with her husband, Roger Pease, a faculty member in the School of Agriculture. She took a job with the WVU Extension Service, working with public school teachers who were renewing their certificates, before returning to graduate school.

After she received her doctorate, she taught at Potomac State College and at Fairmont State College, where she was a full professor until she retired in 1972.

She received the Bread Loaf Publications Award for her work, "Time is Our House," and the West Virginia Library Association Award for "Paradox Hill."

Other awards and honors include selection as West Virginia's Daughter of the Year, the Charleston Gazette's West Virginian of the Year, the University of Charleston's Gold Medallion of Appalachia Award winner and, most recently, she was inducted into the WVU Alumni Association's Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

Ms. McNeill will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters degree during commencement ceremonies.

The couple has one son, Douglas, a researcher at the University of Connecticut.

She is the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. G. D. McNeill and a sister of James McNeill, of Buckeye, and Mrs. C. P. Dorsey, of Morgantown.

Glen Hiner, a native of Morgantown and chief executive of GE Plastics Business Group, headquartered in Massachusetts, is the other degree recipient.

County Natives to Receive Honorary Commencement Degrees

Two Pocahontas County natives are among the four people who have distinguished themselves individually in the fields of state government, the fight against world hunger, American poetry and international manufacturing and will receive honorary degrees during May 14 commencement ceremonies at West Virginia University.

Gaston Caperton, West Virginia's 31st governor; William Lacy Brown, president emeritus of Pioneer Hi-Bred Seed Company; Louise McNeill, West Virginia Poet Laureate; and Glen H. Hiner, senior vice president of General Electric Company, will receive their honorary degrees from WVU President Neil S. Bucklew. Ms. McNeill and Mr. Brown are from Pocahontas County.

"The contributions of all these individuals to the state and nation have been extraordinary," Dr. Bucklew said. "These outstanding individuals have been blessed with the gifts of vision and perseverance, and have worked hard to be successful in their chosen endeavors."

Governor Caperton will be awarded the Doctor of Laws degree.

William Lacy Brown, a native of Arbovale, has been associated with Hi-Bred International, Inc., since 1945, advancing from researcher to chief geneticist to director of research to chairman and now president emeritus.

Hannah Brown, have two children, William T. Brown and Alicia Brown-Matthes. His sister, Louise Brown Butcher, lives in Arbovale. Their parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Tilden Brown.

Pocahontas County native Louise McNeill has been teaching and writing poetry about her native Appalachia since 1930.

West Virginia's Poet Laureate (designated so by former Gov. John D. Rockefeller in 1979) was born in Buckeye, and began her teaching career in a one-room school at the age of 19.

Ms. McNeill is the author of several collections of poems, the most recent titled "Elderberry Flood," as well as numerous scholarly works and contributions to anthologies and textbooks. Her new memoir, "The Milkweed Ladies," once again focuses on life in the mountains.

She began her most famous publication, "Gauley Mountain (1939)," when she was working on her master's degree in creative writing at Miami of Ohio University in 1938, and completed it by oil lamp and wood stove in a farmhouse in Buckeye.

The American poet received her undergraduate degree from Concord College and her doctorate in history from WVU in the late 1950's. In between Ms. McNeill attended the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont—where she worked with Robert Frost—and the University of Iowa Writers Workshop.

She came to WVU in the

Former Parade Marshals

- 1968 Harvey Galford, Parade
Chairman
- 1969 Douglas Dunbrack, Parade
Chairman
- 1970 Pearl S. Buck
- 1972 Mrs. Thomas C. Edgar
- 1973 J. Z. Johnson
- 1974 Charles Richardson
- 1975 Mack Brooks
- 1976 Ms. Mabel and Fleeta Lang
- 1977 Walter Jett and Harry
Hocksberry
- 1978 John Hayslett
- 1979 Louise McNeill Pease
- 1980 Grady K. Moore
- 1981 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence A.
Sheets
- 1982 Pearl C. Ward and Marvin
Dunbrack
- 1983 The Civilian Conservation
Corps
- 1984 Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie B. Hill
- 1985 Joe Roy
- 1986 All 1985 Flood Volunteers
- 1987 Elizabeth McNeill Dorsey
- 1988 Alice Rowan Waugh
- 1989 Jane Price Sharp
- 1990 Louise Barlow
- 1991 The 1967 Board of Directors of
the Historical Society

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CO-OPERATIVE SHIPPING

Miss Louise McNeill, of Buckeye, writes on "Why Dad Should Market His Live Stock Through His County Live Stock Shippers Association."

The boys and girls of West Virginia have been participating in an essay contest conducted by the West Virginia Co-operative Live Stock Shippers on "Why Dad Should Market His Live Stock Through His County Co-operative Live Stock Shippers Association." Forty-eight essays were received, out of which the four best were selected.

Louise McNeill of Marlinton, Pocahontas county, W. Va., submitted a very good story. This is what she says:

My Dad cannot greatly increase the production of live stock on his farm. Nor can he reduce the cost of production. If he is to receive profits he must adopt a more efficient method of marketing. Our county co-operative live stock shippers' association offers a solution to this, and other problems. Dad should patronize it for various reasons:

He does not produce livestock in car lots, hence is at the mercy of the local buyer. The association would get for him market prices with lowest marketing costs. For the past three years the average association costs on cattle have been 74 cents per hundred pounds, not including shrink, as against \$1.25 outside the association.

Co-operative marketing puts a premium on animals of superior quality. This fact is an incentive to the producer to improve his livestock in co-operation with his neighbors.

By shipping co-operatively, Dad will be able to sell his live stock when it is in the best condition and will have a more merchantable product to meet the demands of the consumer.

Dad working with farmers in his community will be able to solve many problems such as the construction of dipping vats, the selection and purchase of pure bred sires, and the establishment of other community practices.

Therefore if Dad, by patronizing and supporting the co-operative live stock shippers association, can increase his net returns, help to improve the quality of live stock in his community, help to establish community customs and services, and do more orderly marketing of standard products, he should by all means avail himself of the opportunity — National Live Stock Producer.

One of the best plays ever given by the High School students was "Peg of my Heart," by the members of "The Seneca" the High School annual. This play was given at the Seneca Theatre Friday night to a capacity house. Those taking a part were Reta Rexrode, Stanley McLaughlin, Mary Warwick Dunlap, Anne Morris, Louise McNeill, Joe Eskridge, Addison McNeill, Bedford Dilley, Edward Rexrode. The proceeds will be used to help defray the expense of this year's issue of "The Seneca".

Honored

Louise McNeill Pease, West Virginia's Poet Laureate, has received still another accolade. Her words—a poem—have been preserved on a dedicatory plaque in the John E. Hull Memorial Room at Miami (Ohio) University from which she received her master's degree in 1938.

The poem, "Dedication," a 16 line poem from Paradox Hill, will be engraved on a bronze plaque which will include the names of Miami men who have died in American Wars.

Calling Dr. Pease an "outstanding Miamian," the school's alumni newspaper reports that the West Virginia poet was the first master's degree candidate ever to turn in a creative writing project accepted as a thesis.

The Poet Laureate, named to the post in 1977, was honored as West Virginia Daughter of the Year in ceremonies with Governor Rockefeller in 1979 in Washington, D. C.

Her writings include Elderberry Flood, a volume of poetry telling West Virginia's history, published by the Department of Culture and History; Gauley Mountain, and Paradox Hill, among many others. She is a native of Buckeye and presently resides in Lewisburg.

Roger W. Pease

Roger W. Pease, age 92, died in Manchester, Connecticut, on September 24, 1990. Since 1985 he has been cared for in the home of his son, Douglas, and, after a long illness, he died in the Bidwell Health Care Center.

Mr. Pease is survived by his wife, the former Louise McNeill of Buckeye; his son, Dr. Douglas McNeill Pease; a granddaughter, Noralyn M. Pease; and his nephew, Theodore M. Pease, of Anchorage, Alaska. He is also survived by two sons, Dr. Roger W. and Charles Fessendeu Pease, by a former marriage.

He was born in Ashfield, Massachusetts, August 2, 1898, the son of the Reverend C. B. F. Pease and Jessica Cole Pease. Through his mother's family he was a descendant of James Cole of Plymouth Colony and of Roger Williams.

He was a graduate of Loomis Preparatory School and attended Yale University, Class of 1920, until the outbreak of World War I. He volunteered for service in April 1917 and, at the close of the War, attended Cornell University where he graduated in Agriculture in 1922. In a much later period he attended Bread Loaf School of English, the University of Iowa, and in 1950 received an M. S. degree in Agriculture at West Virginia University.

Always a wilderness explorer, he made a long journey in the early 1920's, following the Laps and their reindeer herds across Lapland and, before his return to the United States, he climbed to the cold dark edges of North Cape.

At home, he was a teacher, farmer, carpenter and fisherman. He taught at the Boys' Latin School in Baltimore, in Kingswood Boys' School, Hartford. For ten years he was headmaster of Mooreland Hill Day School in New Britain. During the years of World War II, he was Assistant Headmaster of Aiken Preparatory School, Aiken, South Carolina. After the War, he taught briefly at Davis and Elkins College and moved in 1946 to the College of Agriculture at West Virginia University, where he

worked until his retirement. His last years in West Virginia were spent in Lewisburg. In 1985, when he could no longer work in his garden and shop, he and Mrs. Pease moved to Connecticut where they were cared for in the home of their son, Douglas, and his daughter, Noralyn. In these years, Roger suffered little severe pain, and his last illness came suddenly and was not of long duration—pneumonia. "The old man's friend."

In early November a memorial service will be held in the little woodland behind the Unitarian Church in Manchester Township.

In the last year of his life, he would often quote from the 23rd Psalm, "Horatio at the Bridge," Virgil's "Aeneid," and from the beautiful "Requiem" by Robert Louis Stevenson, written just 11 years before Rog was born:

*"Under the bright and starry sky
Dig the grave and let me lie.
Glad did I live and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.*

*"This be the verse you grave for me:
Here he lies where he longed to be—*

*Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
And the hunter home from the hill."*

—Louise McNeill Pease

Nancy Yeager Stokes

Mrs. Nancy Yeager Stokes, age 53, of Monticello, Arkansas, formerly of Marlinton and Beckley, died Friday, September 21, 1990, at Drew Memorial Hospital in Monticello where she had served as Medical Technologist.

She was the daughter of the late Arnout and Helen Yeager, of Marlinton.

She is survived by her husband, Ted N. Stokes, and son, Kevin Stokes, both of Monticello; daughter, Lisa Stokes Pittman, of Phoenix, Arizona; two sisters, Susan Duncan, of Ashland, Kentucky and Ann Mulheren, of Pearisburg, Virginia; two brothers, Jim Yeager, of Woodbridge, Virginia and Butch Yeager, of Rockville, Maryland, and three grandchildren.

Poet's Corner

Poem by Louise McNeill

Steve Smith found this poem—handwritten—among the papers of his aunt, Polly Smith Reynolds, a high school teacher in Marlinton and later in Buckhannon. Louise McNeill Pease, a native of Buckeye, was later Poet Laureate of West Virginia.

"April Testament"

Dear Love, dear heart, when time is fled
And I no longer sing,

I leave this message to be read
In sunlight and in spring,
Of life, of faith, of years content
Because our love was so,
That when this form in anguish
went

The spirit would not go.

And on this page in very truth:

A lyric and a flame,

Immortal April and a kiss,

The music, and your name.

Louise McNeill

McNeill book published

The University of Pittsburgh Press proudly announces the publication of *Fermi Buffalo*, a collection of poetry written by the late Louise McNeill, West Virginia's Poet Laureate from 1979 until her death in June 1993.

Louise McNeill achieved national prominence as a poet, essayist and historian. She was born in 1911, at Buckeye, on an Appalachian hill farm that had been in her family for nine generations. McNeill was educated at Concord College, Miami of Ohio, and West Virginia University.

The Invisible Line

By Louise McNeill

Mothers must draw a subtle line
Finer than any thread is fine;

Must firmly hold but never clutch,
Must freely give but not too much

Must stand apart but never far,
Must heal the wound but bless
the scar;

And falsely speaking, truly tell,
And, guarding, never guard too
well;

And hearing, fail to overhear;

And, fearing all things, have no
fear;

And loving, love each child the
best,

Yet no child dearer than the rest.

(Published in the February 21,
1959, issue of the Saturday Even-
ing Post. Louise McNeill Pease
is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs.
G. D. McNeill, of Buckeye.)

The following poem was written
by Mrs. Louise McNeill Pease,
of Morgantown, daughter of Dr.
and Mrs. G. D. McNeill, of Buck-
eye, and was published in The
Saturday Evening Post:

Wire-Brier

Let us remember, here recall
Old rhymes chanted when we
were small;
Never, never to step on cracks;
Beware of hoptoads with warty
backs;
And, "A bushel of wheat and a
bushel of rye;
Who's not ready holler I."
Let us remember, live again
Twilight evenings when we were
ten,
With hide-and-seek on the sum-
mer lawn,
The fireflies lighting us off and on;
And how we ran to the old yard
tree
And touched it, shouting our one,
two, three,
"A bushel of wheat and a bushel
of clover;
Who's not ready can't hide over."

Elderberry Flood
By Louise McNeill

Review by Dr. Denise K. McNeel

No doubt readers familiar with Paradox Hill and Gauley Mountain are already planning to purchase and read Louise McNeill's latest book, *Elderberry Flood*. They will not be disappointed.

The title is drawn from an old logger saying. The "elderberry flood" came when the elders were in bloom, raising the river so that the logs might be driven down to the mill.

Dr. McNeill also allows her title to refer to the "flood" of history—the passage of time. In this collection of poems, West Virginia's poet laureate chronicles the history, lore and legend of the State. Dr. McNeill's love for and knowledge of West Virginia shine through her verse and from her pen history is never dull.

Dr. McNeill designed this book to serve as a supplementary aid to the teaching of West Virginia history and culture, but the limitations necessarily imposed by such an endeavor certainly do not detract from the quality of the poetry. If you like history or if you like good verse you will enjoy this book; but if you relish both, this is a rare treat indeed. Once started, I couldn't put *Elderberry Flood* down.

The book is far ranging in content. It begins in pre-

historic times and ends looking into the future. It covers incidents and people from all over the State and all aspects of the society that makes up West Virginia. Yes, blacks and women are well represented here.

Pocahontas County readers will particularly savor poems about this area which Dr. McNeill knows so well: The Moccasin String, which tells of an incident in an Indian raid at Mill Point in the 1780's; A Fable of Droop Mountain, which tells a little-known legend about the Civil War battle in 1863; Corner Tree, based on the Lewis Oak, the stump of which stood in Marlinton until this year; Lumber Ghost Towns and Green Bank Radio Astronomy Center.

This is a book of heroes, heroines, and larger-than-life characters in West Virginia's rich story: Cornstalk, John Lewis, the slave Dick Pointer, Betty Zane, Daniel Boone, John Brown, Nancy Hart, to name just a few. This is also a book of courageous but forgotten individuals: the settlers, the itinerant teachers, the circuit riders, the railroad builders, the loggers. It took all of these to make West Virginia and in telling their story Louise McNeill is not ashamed to allow her pride in her native state to show through. Recommended for all West Virginians and all others who want to catch the spirit of the Mountain State.

WEST VIRGINIAN OF THE YEAR

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Louise McNeill Pease has been named by the *Sunday Gazette-Mail* as its West Virginian of the Year for 1985.

Dr. Pease, a native of Buckeye, has been West Virginia's Poet Laureate since 1979 and is recognized nationally for her poetry. She has recently been nominated as a Librarian Consultant with the Library of Congress.

She is the author of several books of poetry, including Mountain White, Gawley Mountain, Paradox Hill, and Elderberry Flood.

She has also had her verse published in a number of national magazines.

Dr. Pease is the daughter of the late George Douglas and Grace McNeill McNeill.

She was educated at Edray District High School and received an AB degree from Concord College, a MA from Miami University of Ohio, and her PhD from W. Va. University.

Dr. Pease began her teaching career in a Pocahontas County one room school and has taught at The Potomac State College, Concord College, Fairmont College, and Davis and Elkins College.

She is married to Roger Pease and they have one son, Douglas McNeill Pease.

After retirement in 1973 the Peases lived most of the time in Lewisburg until moving last October to be with their son in Connecticut.

Dear Editor,

I have been an admirer of Louise McNeill for many years. I was introduced to her once, when I was a student at WVU in the '50s.

Last Friday evening Howard and I went over to Mount Hope to watch the dramatization of her book, Gauley Mountain. The players made the poems come to life for us.

I thought perhaps if people in Pocahontas County knew more about the performance some would want to come to Mount Hope to see it. Or perhaps some organization could persuade the group to come to Pocahontas County some time, perhaps in connection with Pioneer Days. It's well worth seeing.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Howard Brown

NOTE: Gauley Mountain is being performed every Friday and Saturday evening at 8 p.m. through August 14. The production is at the Princess Playhouse in Mt. Hope and tickets are \$4. Call 877-5194 for more information.

Fifty Years Ago in The Pocahontas Times

Thursday, March 17, 1949

Captain James M. McNeill
Confederate States Army
From Richwood News-Leader

A name that sent tingles up the spines of Yankee Nicholas countians was a Confederate Chieftain by the name of Captain James M. McNeill, who was a builder and contractor from Pocahontas county, and who joined up with the Rebels when the war clouds of 87 years ago gathered over the nation.

For some time this newspaper has been trying to get the story of James McNeill, grandfather of the poetess Louise McNeill, but was unsuccessful in finding anybody who knew much about the man. Then we ran into one of Pocahontas County's best informed, but least known historians, a man named Dorsey Little, of Marlinton. Mr. Little remembered something about Jimmy Reb, but didn't want to trust himself with the historical facts, so he did the best thing possible: He wrote a letter to Professor Douglas McNeill of the Davis and Elkins College faculty.

Professor McNeill is the only son of Captain McNeill of the Nicholas Company, 22nd Virginia, who was captured at the battle of Droop Mountain and kept at Fort Delaware for a long tiresome period of time. Professor McNeill's report on his father follows, and all of it is a new and important contribution to the Civil War history of Nicholas county:

James Monroe McNeill was born at Buckeye, on Swago Creek, Pocahontas County, May 9, 1823, and died on the old home farm, March 26, 1911.

His boyhood was spent on the farm. In the early 1840's he taught a term or two of the old time subscription school. About 1841, he married Sarah Jane Young, built a log house on his farm, and with his girl wife went about home-making. Very shortly his wife died. Whether it was to get away from the scene of his sorrow, or to adventure in Nicholas county, which was beginning to develop, no one knows. At any rate, he left his farm in charge of a brother and walked over the "Old Nicholas Road" to Summersville—this in the late 1840's.

From what my father has told me, I take it that most of his work in Nicholas was at carpentry. He

built a one-story Dutch type house in Summersville for the Eagle (or Eakle) family, he built a log church near what is now Craigsville; he built some houses for a "Mayor" Harris at the Richlands. He has told me of building a bridge across Mud-dlety. It seems that the sills of the bridge were logs and possibly thirty or forty feet long. A number of men were present, and they had to carry the logs to place with handspikes. A. M. McClung owned a giant slave who was supposedly the strongest man in Nicholas. McNeill weighed 220 pounds and was something of a giant in his own right. With a man on either end of a dozen handspikes, the log was lifted and moved toward its place. McNeill and the Negro were pitted against each other. Thereupon the other men gradually eased a bit and left more weight to McNeill and the slave. I suspect my father did not admit it next morning, but he has told me that he could scarcely "get on his britches" next morning. It was, however, a consolation that the Negro was unable to report for further work on the bridge.

Personally, Captain McNeill was opposed to slavery and secession, but like Lee, Jackson, and many thousands of others, he felt that his allegiance was to Virginia, and when his state seceded, he went with it.

The "Nicholas Blues" was organized at Summersville with a Mr. Shelton as captain and my father as first lieutenant. For some reason, possibly poor health, Captain Shelton resigned and McNeill took his place.

The first fight in which this Company D took part was the Action at Kesslers Cross Lanes. It was at Carnifax all about Gauley Bridge, Sewell, and Fayetteville. As a part of the 22nd Virginia Infantry under Colonel George S. Patton (grandfather of "Blood and Guts" Patton of World War II) it took part in the fight at White Sulphur, Lewisburg and Droop Mountain.

You mention in your letter that Captain McNeill was somewhat in command of the 22nd Regiment at Droop Mountain. This is not entirely accurate. Colonel Patton was actually, though not theoretically, in command of the Confederates at Droop. The active command of the 22nd developed upon Major Bailey. When Averell's flanking party made its surprise appearance at the west end of Droop, the 22nd

Eliza Dunlap's oral history of the Linwood area

Dear Mr. McNeel,

I was quite interested in an article in the current issue of the Times. One Hundred Years of Soccer: A Legacy Of The Old English by Louise McNeill Pease. I was born in Linwood in 1917 and moved away in 1929. But I recall my mother talking about the English who had lived in the neighborhood. The Rev. O. N. Miles used to come by from time to time and spend the night at our house. He was living at Clover Lick at the time and invited me to his home for a couple of days. I think there was a trout stream he wanted me to try.

Mother was the youngest child of Col. A. C. L. Gatewood, born in 1884. I was talking with her one evening in 1965, and took notes and wrote it up the next day. I attach a copy for your information. The English were present in the Linwood area around the turn of the century. I didn't know they were present in other areas. When I was ten years old I knew that there were two kinds of football: Soccer and Rugby.

Sincerely,
John M. Dunlap, Jr.

Recollections of Eliza Pleasant Gatewood Dunlap as told to her son, John M. Dunlap, Jr., at Spring Farm, Lexington, Virginia, November 26, 1965.

Eliza Pleasant Gatewood is the daughter of Col. Andrew Cameron Lewis Gatewood and Mary Schilling Warwick, Col. and Mrs. Gatewood spent the early years of their marriage at the old home place at Mountain Grove, Virginia.

Later on, in order to make better use of the family lands in West Virginia and increase cattle production, the family moved to the Big Spring place. This farm is located on the Marlinton to Elkins road about twenty miles from Marlinton and for many years was the location of the Linwood post office. One of its distinguishing features is a spring at the base of the hill across the road and directly in front of the house. This spring has an exceptionally high rate of flow, hence the name "Big Spring."

The place had apparently been in use for some years. A nice frame house had already been erected. It had a long porch with a cloak room at one end. This house was later replaced with a large two story frame house of colonial architecture with the frills popular in the late 1800's added. A large yard was enclosed with a white plank fence. The house was located on a bluff about twenty feet above the road. A set of wide stairs connected the two levels ending in a stile at the fence by the road.

At that time a large number of congenial people with similar backgrounds lived in the community, including families that had immigrated from England. In addition, there were several young Englishmen who boarded in the community for a time to learn farming.

The English families were as follows:

Lawson - lived at Mingo.
Charley Bruce - lived at Mingo.
Emshaw - lived at Dry Branch.
Tuke - lived at the place later known as the Vandevender place. Miss Gladys Tuke remembers attending Eliza's wedding as a small girl. Gladys never married and now lives at White Sulphur Springs. Eliza and John had dinner at the Tukes after the wedding.

Hodgsons - lived across from the church on the way to Clover Lick. Criss Hodgson was killed in World War I.

Vanaver - lived at Laurel Spring, later known as the Hannah place.

Hebden - lived on Middle Mountain on the way to Mingo. They liked to entertain and had

many nice parties.

Other families in the community were as follows:

Sam Varner - lived in the old log house at Cherry Hollow on the place belonging to R. K. Dunlap. They later moved to the Split Rock place. Sam's daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Coyner now lives at Coyner Spring near Waynesboro, Virginia. Sam Varner was a son.

King - lived at what was later known as the Charley Beale place. They moved to the community from Marlinton and in later years moved back. Mr. King was an expert carpenter and cabinet maker and found ample employment. He made some of the furniture in the Gatewood home from virgin cherry cut from the knob in front of the house. Mr. King and his son Blake built the Tuke house. Blake married Georgia Ligon of Clover Lick. Other King children were Lake, Ted, and Annie.

Ligon - lived at Clover Lick. They were fond of entertaining. Eliza, Myrtle Varner, Emma King, and the Hannahs from Green Bank and others were there frequently for parties. Mrs. Sally Ligon was related to the Gatewoods through the Warwicks.

The older Gatewood children were born at Mountain Grove, Virginia. Massie, Andrew, and Eliza were born at the Big Spring home.

A one room public school was located across the road from the King (Beale) place. Farther down the road on the opposite side near the Vanaver home was located a similar building known as the "pay school". This was a private school maintained by the more prominent members of the community for their children. The patrons contributed to pay expenses and the teacher's salary.

The Gatewoods, Kings, Vanavers, and others attended the pay school. A good teacher was always employed. Miss Jenny Clark was one of the teachers. She later married and went to Wyoming to live. The Wooddells, Beales and others not included in the pay school thought the idea was "snooty." All grades were taught by one teacher but because of the small group this was not too much of a problem.

After Eliza finished the sixth grade the pay school closed, probably because of the panic of 1892, and she went to the seventh grade in the public school. There the teacher had about forty students ranging in age from seven to twenty. Among many others there were Macces, Wooddells and Beales (lots of Beales).

This was probably a difficult year for Eliza. She states that she enjoyed the spelling matches and being able to "spell down" the twenty year old boys. She remembers one incident that she thought was very funny: Henny Beale was eating lunch just outside an open window and said "I sure wish Ma would put more guts in these pies".

Most of the Gatewood boys went to the Greenbrier Military School at Lewisburg. They were there during "the year of the big snow" and were walking home with the three Marshall boys when it came. They kept moving but were delayed several days. This was time of great worry at the home place.

The only Gatewood boy to go to college was Massie. He graduated from the University of West Virginia and remained there and took a law degree. He never used his legal training, probably because of the good jobs then available in railroad construction. For the same reason the other boys showed no interest in college.

Andrew studied engineering on the job and became quite proficient. He later registered as a Professional Engineer in the state of Virginia.

Willy was successful in the construction field and was later in the Langhorne and Gatewood Construction firm. Eugene remained at home and ran the farm. Massie came back from time to time to help.

After the seventh grade at the public school Eliza went to the Marlinton High School and boarded at the Yeagers.

Because of the poor transportation of the time she only got home at Christmas and perhaps one more time during the school year.

After high school, Eliza went to Powhatan College at Charles Town. She remained there two years and completed the Business Course. Then she was at home about a year until her marriage.

Before the war the Gatewoods owned a young female slave named Cora. Col. Gatewood built a house for her at Mountain Grove and she remained with the family all her life. After the move to Big Spring Aunt Cora was sent for when any special occasion came up that required more help. She was famed for the fried chicken and rolls which she cooked for breakfast. The Hodgsons, fresh from England and probably never seen a colored person, were much interested in Aunt Cora. Col. Gatewood invited them for dinner one evening for the real purpose of seeing Cora. Aunt Cora always called the Colonel "Mar'sh Cameron".

In the late 1800's there was an adequate supply of deer in the woods. As there were no game laws the boys frequently hunted with dogs. Venison appeared on the table often and Mrs. Gatewood's deer steak with gravy was delicious.

The Colonel was a great reader. He also read to the children every

night and went through all of John Esten Cook's books and many others.

The Big Spring Presbyterian Church was built when Eliza was small. This church is still in use and now has memorial windows honoring Colonel and Mrs. Gatewood. Before the church was built services were held in the Mulvey Store when a preacher could be found.

The Mulveys ran the store for a number of years which was located about a tenth of a mile down the road from the Gatewood home. Mr. Marshall from Mingo later operated it for a period of time.

Col. Gatewood frequently entertained the children with war stories. One that Eliza remembers concerned a time at Warm Springs, Virginia, when the Col. and his comrades were pursued by a group of Yankees. They hid in the bushes at the Francisco home and avoided capture. In the 1890's Col. Gatewood wrote a "History of the Bath County Squadron". In this he made no mention of being in Warm Springs. He was probably home on leave at the time of the incident.

Of all the neighbors, Mr. Lawson was the most colorful. He from time to time would spend a night at the Gatewood home. He would keep everyone up until midnight talking. And when retiring he would pick up all the newspapers in sight (with permission) and spend a couple of more hours in his room clipping articles that appealed to him with his folding scissors.

Mr. Lawson always had a fast horse. After Eliza's marriage he would sometimes gallop madly up the hollow and give her a jar of strawberry jelly or a box of candy and then gallop away.

American Diabetes Association issues two-minute warning about diabetes

The American Diabetes Association is sounding the alarm throughout November, National Diabetes Month, about an incurable disease that is increasingly involving the people of West Virginia -- diabetes. And the Association is offering a free written quiz to help find hidden cases of the disease.

"Almost half the people in West Virginia who have diabetes do not know they have this life-threatening disease," says Guyton Hornsby, Ph.D., president of the American Diabetes Association, West Virginia Affiliate, Inc. and an exercise physiologist at the University of West Virginia. "Many of those who have diabetes don't discover it until they are confronted with one or more of its terrible complications, such as heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, blindness, or foot and leg amputations," he says, "because the effects of this disease, while devastating, often go unnoticed for too long."

According to the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), West Virginia has the sixth worst diabetes mortality rate in the nation, and it accounts for more than 1,500 deaths, 465 leg or foot amputations and 110 cases of adult blindness every year. West Virginians absorb \$159 million in diabetes costs annually.

Building on its call last year for an intensified effort to curb the diabetes epidemic in West Virginia, the Affiliate is offering a free written quiz, the Diabetes Risk Test, to anyone who requests it during National Diabetes Month. "We are telling people in West Virginia," Take the test and know the score, "so they can assess their risk for diabetes and become familiar with its warning signs," Hornsby adds. "For those who are

diagnosed, we then provide them with the world's best literature on how to fight the complications of diabetes and live life to the fullest."

The two minutes it takes to complete the test could be the most important two minutes in their lives," Hornsby says.

Diabetes, which afflicts about 14 million people in the United States - 100,000 in West Virginia alone - affects the way the body turns food into energy. The body does not secrete enough insulin or can't properly use the insulin it makes, and the resulting high blood sugar level can damage many of the body's organs, leading to heart, disease, kidney disease, stroke, blindness, leg and foot amputations - even death.

Symptoms of Type I diabetes include a family history of diabetes, frequent urination, abnormal thirst, excessive hunger, rapid weight loss, irritability, weakness and fatigue, and nausea and vomiting. Symptoms of Type II diabetes include those previously listed, as well as drowsiness, itching, blurred or changing vision, excessive weight, tingling or numbness in the feet, and problems with skin infections. Overweight people who are over 40 and have at least one blood relative with diabetes are especially at risk for developing diabetes.

The American Diabetes Association, West Virginia Affiliate, Inc., is the state's leading non-profit organization working to cure diabetes. For more information, call the West Virginia Affiliate at 304-925-6685 or 1-800-232-6366.

Find your treasures here...
SHOP LOCALLY

One hundred years of soccer: a legacy of the old English

By Louise McNeill Pease

Reprinted from FORWARD Magazine of Davis and Elkins College.

Editor's Note: The following story appeared as a gift to Davis & Elkins College by West Virginia's poet laureate, Louise McNeill Pease, coincides with the College's 1992-93 academic theme, *Year of the Book*, and the dedication of the new Booth Library which opens this fall. This descriptive work reflects the competitive and joyful spirit of the Scotch-Irish pioneers in West Virginia, and provides real-life insight into the physical endeavors and rich traditions of soccer. The game of soccer has long been an intercollegiate sports emphasis at Davis & Elkins College and community.

The author's association with the college began in 1942 when her father, the late G. Douglas McNeill, a former lawyer and high school administrator, was appointed associate professor of social science. Because of her great affection for the college, Mrs. Pease has donated her literary works, both published and unpublished, to the growing archival collection in the Booth Library at Davis & Elkins College.

As soon as I got off the phone call from Annabelle, I knew something had hit me. I was dizzy as a top, and I could hear a name going over and over in my head: "MacQueen!" Mr. MacQueen! Annabelle is my sister-in-law and lives up in Pocahontas County (West Virginia), while I live, mostly, in my little town here in Kanawha. I'm 80 1/2 years old and in a nest home, so I do a lot of calling and Annabelle calls me with the news - like with "MacQueen."

As I quieted down, I realized that Annabelle had been telling me about Jamie's Hillsboro soccer team beating Elkins twice, tying Beckley, etc., etc. There's this all-county soccer league for the kids, but Hillsboro is only a village with a few farms gathered round, and Beckley is a coal city, and I had become so flabbergasted on the phone about how Hillsboro could beat Beckley, Jamie is my great nephew and Annabelle's grandson, so naturally, she was trying to explain Mr. MacQueen. "Mr. MacQueen!" That was it! That MacQueen was a Hillsboro farmer who had come over from Scotland and had taught soccer to Joe and Howard Walker when they were kids. Now Jamie was the kid and Joe his coach, with MacQueen helping out a little with "The Old English," so - then I knew I had made one of my far-off connections. Why, a man named McKenna had come to the English Colony more than a hundred years ago, and the English lawyer, J.H.G. Wilson, a soccer expert had taught the Pocahontas boys how to play. "G.D." my father, was on that Wilson man and on and on the connections, till one fall, a team of Pocahontas boys had whipped D.C. for the national championship.

This soccer story had come to me, hit me like a head butt. But I don't know much more about soccer than I do about the Doppler Effect, whatever that is. So I got on the phone and called the Davis & Elkins College library and asked for a Xerox. I knew "G.D." had published something about soccer and the English Colony back in the 1930's. Next I wrote Jane Price Sharp at the Pocahontas Times Office. I knew Jane could answer a question no one else could, and she could send me some stuff about the Frost team.

By now I knew what I was tracking: a hundred years of soccer the English had left us when they went away. Soccer, head butts, dribbles, "The Old English," as "G.D." said to me that night of his heart attack.

Before long, Jane and the Davis & Elkins library sent a sheaf of Xeroxes, and I began to take notes on the back of old envelopes. I like to keep organized. Especially when I'm working within a chronology; and this story had a good, straight chronology on the English Colony - when it began and when it ended: 1883-1915.

In 1883 two aristocratic Englishmen, Charles Bruce and R. B. Chomondy, came to Walter Tuke's in Millboro, Virginia. Bruce was an Oxford professor, and he and Chomondy came on a hunting trip and also on a land-looking expedition. At Tuke's or on their way further west, they met Andrew McLaughlin, who, at the time, owned much of the rich, level land upon which the town of Marlinton stands today. McLaughlin encouraged the visitors, talked to

them about their plans for sheep farming in America, and pointed them on their westward way.

They came to the headspring of Tygart River, and before them lay the romantic dream. Standing above the mountain, covered with virgin spruce and pine. Below the mountains were the cleared slopes of bluegrass pasture. They could hear the very heartspring of Tygart River pulsing out of the earth.

The woods were full of game: bear, deer, panther, pheasant, turkey; and the water branches were alive with brook trout. The birthplace of the winding Elk River lay not far to the eastward; and there were local farmers, neighbors - not too many the Englishmen trusted - to dispel their paradise.

They bought, "cheap as dirt," a large tract of land. Then, with their traveling cook, Loyd, and possibly help also from some native workers cut timber and built two sturdy houses. Bruce called his "The Glen."

Before long, though records are not clear as to the arrangements, Mrs. Bruce arrived from England bringing with her the two Bruce children and two servant maids.

After this pioneer settlement, the influx of English settlers was rapid and enthusiastic. Geographically, the settlement was to extend, finally, from Linwood to Mingo. Houses such as "New Market" and "Fair Haven" and sheep farms scattered uphill and down dale. The sheep were usually Hampshire, Southdowns, or Cheviot, and were shipped to market on a branch of the new C. & O. Railroad, which was coming into the new, fast-running lumber boom.

The Englishmen were of that hardy sporting breed. A race track was built, a polo field, tennis courts, soccer fields. There was a seat for fly fishing; and also that famous marathon race between young Norman Price of Marlinton and the Englishman, F. S. L. Greaves. Greaves won the race from Mingo to the Marlinton bridge, covering some 25 miles in 2 hours, 59 minutes - crossing, on his way, three "formidable spurs of the Big Allegheny." But a few weeks later, Greaves out alone on a bear hunt and did not return by nightfall. Search was made. Greaves was found lying on a flat rock, stone dead. He was buried in the Mingo graveyard, and, for him, I remember that "There is some corner of a foreign field that is forever England."

As I think of the great Mingo Marathon, "G.D.'s" voice comes back to me from a corner of my home fireplace, though I can remember only the gist of what he said. The Greek boy fell dead on the market square. If you count the time, Greaves made a real time. They found him, no sign of a struggle, probably over-developed heart. As "G.D." speaks, the fire flames spin and clinders fall down. Some of the English, Oxford graduates. Some young sons of the nobility. Brought their maids, cooks, nurses, governesses, even a horse trainer. Then there was that Wilson, J. H. G. Wilson, just up of Oxford, and let us up his law practice in Marlinton. As "G.D." wrote in the article, "This Wilson was a soccer player deluxe." I remember his voice again, "A soccer player if I ever saw one. Coached us Marlinton boys. The thing spread. A soccer field in every hollow and hamlet."

Because this "hollow and hamlet" growth of soccer paralleled the big years of our mountain timber boom, it is easy to imagine these great soccer games on a summer, Saturday afternoon. For Saturday was pronounced a holiday, and one can enlarge the length of the standard soccer field to 150 yards so as to make room for the 50 players on each side.

Here they were - say in one of Uncle Bob's or Uncle Jim Gibbons' big stubble fields on Elk. The players, as they line up, are a "Mistery Crew": farmers, loggers, and "simile barefoot youths of twelve." The men are in their leather shirts and in cowhide boots or calf-headed loggers shoes. Some of the men wear long whiskers, and maybe there is a chew of "Brown Mule" tucked carefully back in the jaw.

The contest is fierce, sometimes bloody: calf-headed boot on bare shin bone, a secret poke at a nose, and the whoops, and hollers. "The Old English" head butt striking against the ball, the men of farm running up and down the sideline, a few bottles of red-eye whiskey passing up and down to thirst-quench the screaming crowd

or even to bring a withering player back on his feet.

Lawyer Wilson's "Oxford" team from Marlinton was disgracefully beaten in the first game with the English, but there is a far "harper point, an historic point, to be made here. For a few of these native teams continued for more than 30 years and then, sent their offshoots into the future, a future that extends through the generations even to the Hillsboro kids, even to "Mr. MacQueen."

This long and prosperous life was not, however, to bless the English Colony itself. The late 1880's and the early 1890's were the golden years. Although, those who came and "lured for awhile" numbered about 50. A few of these names evoke, "This happy breed of men, this little world": Mr. and Mrs. Archie Burch and maid, W. T. and J. D. Langworthy; James McKenzie, P. C. Fuckle; Hubert Einshaw and mother; Mr. and Mrs. Laimner Tuke and daughter, Gladys.

The era 1885-1900 can be seen as the years of growth and a certain stability. But the Boer War in South Africa (1899) and World War I (1915) called some of the men to Old England's need. One of these Mingo volunteers died in the Boer War and two in World War I. There were also two meaningful departures farther into West Virginia. The Laimner Tuke family in 1908 moved to another farm near White Sulphur Springs, Greenbrier County. Also Rev. O. N. Miles began to move his family to the little country church to Linwood, to Cloverfield, finally to Marlinton. Today, 1991, no known living descendant of the colony remains in America. Yet the English had left to the people of Randolph and Pocahontas treasures now beyond recall. Certainly, they had left a touch of their gentile manners, a half-tone of their gentle speech, a measure of their "sporting blood," and a kind of exotic gleam to tell by the fire. Most of all they had left their soccer. The first two Englishmen came to Walker Tuke's in Millboro in 1883; Jamie's schoolboy soccer league was organized in the late 1970's; and in between were those bursts of life, those lifts of joy, those legends of war and sacrifice, those summer Saturdays, those living fields of the sun.

It has been recorded that after the departure of the English, some of the Pocahontas soccer teams lived on for 30 years. Actually a few lived more than 30, and the team at Frost is a prime example. The Frost team was organized before 1900 and was still playing in 1937. Another enduring team was in the Brush Country where Willie Dilley and some of his brothers played.

I am 80 years old with a fair memory, and my brother Jim and I both remember at least one game on the field behind the old Marlinton High School. "G.D." played in this game and was 48-50 years old. Other more notable games were played at the "Old Fairground," up Greenbrier River. In one of these Fairground games, Frost played Luke, Maryland. Another big game was between Frost and Newmarket, Virginia. The crowd was estimated at 3,500. The last organized Frost team played, in 1937, a championship game against D. C. So the Frost team, organized before 1900, did indeed, play more than 30 years. A picture of the Frost team, in official uniforms, is printed in the Pocahontas County History, 1981. It is a team essentially of Sharps and Dilleys. Names listed are: Bob Curry, Willie Dilley, Kyle Sharp, Earl Sharp, Ashley Dilley, Floyd Dilley, Roy Dilley, Delbert Reed, Johnny Sharp, Blair Sharp, Basil Sharp, Leo Dilley and Ernest Sharp.

The years between 1937 and 1941 are not long. They seem in a rush by. Suddenly, in December 1941, stands that iron crossway where many must meet and many must part. That crossway was Sunday morning, December 7, "Calling all ships!" "Calling all ships!"

Some Englishmen had left the Mingo Colony in 1915 to go into World War I. I must it go: how the sons of some of these Mingo English might have played soccer with Basil Sharp on the fields of France.

"G.D." in the fall of 1941, had retired from his high school job in Pocahontas and gone, when he was 63, to teach at Davis & Elkins College over in Randolph County. Basil Sharp had attended Davis & Elkins before World War II loomed

on our horizons. At Davis & Elkins, Basil had played regular football, finished his college work, and in 1941, was coaching football in Pocahontas.

"G.D." over at Davis & Elkins that fall of 1941, looked around to find a flat place. When he had been 23, he had been one of Lawyer J. H. G. Wilson's Marlinton boys. Now at 63 he became the first (if highly unofficial coach) of Davis & Elkins' soccer team. This first team was only a small start on a long way. But it was the start of the Davis & Elkins teams which had coaches, of the Davis & Elkins team that won the U. S. Championship, of the many teams that stood out and still stand in the nation as powers to reckon with. All the way from Oxford University - "old J. H. G." as "G.D." would say it, had done "prey well."

I wrote to Jane Price Sharp to find out if Basil had played soccer at Davis & Elkins. There was no soccer team. Fright enough. But he had played it on the Fields of France. When back from the Front, Basil had played old J. H. G.'s Oxford soccer on the Fields of France. Then one time when Basil didn't come back from the front, he became, along with a few of our other boys, a legend because he would never grow old.

Accidents

State Police have investigated two accidents in the past week.

The Back Mountain Road near Durbin was the site of a two vehicle accident on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 12:20 p.m. Involved were a 1990 Ford driven by Elsie M. Lipscomb, of Durbin, and a 1984 Ford driven by Susan P. Wilson, also of Durbin. Mr. Lipscomb failed to maintain control of his car, it slid sideways, and hit the Wilson vehicle. Two of the three passengers with Mr. Wilson were taken by private vehicle to the Deer Creek Clinic. The 1984 car had moderate damage and the 1990 car had minor damage.

A single vehicle accident occurred on Rt. 250/28 near Arrow on the 6th. Brian Young, of Arrowville, lost control of a 1985 Nissan after hitting a deer. The car slid across the highway, went onto the berm and hit a fence. Mr. Young was not injured in the 6 p.m. accident. His car had minor damage.

A number of accident reports were on file at the Sheriff's office.

The intersection of Third Avenue and Sixth Street in Marlinton was the location of a two vehicle accident on September 22 at 3:45 p.m. Involved were a 1985 Ford driven by Tammy L. Gravelly, and a 1983 Chevrolet driven by Tammy L. Broce. Both drivers were from Marlinton. Ms. Gravelly stopped at the stop sign on Sixth Street and then turned onto Third Avenue into the path of Ms. Broce. There were no injuries and moderate vehicle damage in the accident.

Only minor damage resulted from an accident on Oct. 21 on Droop Mountain on October 20. Involved were a 1984 Chevrolet van driven by James A. Haynes Jr., of Marlinton, and a 1992 Ford pickup driven by Roger E. Evans, of Logan. Mr. Haynes pulled onto the road into the path of the other vehicle. Mr. Evans swerved and missed the van but lost control and went into the ditch. Mr. Evans and a passenger were not injured.

Two accidents were investigated on the 31st.

The first was at 8:55 a.m. at the Rt. 219/150 intersection on Elk Mountain. Donald R. McClung, of Summersville, travelling on Rt. 150 failed to see the stop sign until he was almost at it. He applied his

"G.D." stayed at Davis & Elkins through the war and taught the raw military recruits the geography of the Pacific Philippine Islands, two Ima, Coral Sea. Then he stayed on to teach the "G.I." boys back from the war, teaching them economics and business. "And is the field still playing?" One night when "G.D." was 71-72, I had rushed halfway across the state to stand at his bedside in an Elkins hospital. A heart attack had hit him like a thunderbolt. As I stood there, drawn-faced and exhausted, he looked up at me with those cool brown eyes. "This evening, up on the field, I was showing the boys a little of The Old English. Don't tell your mother."

So now in 1991, Jamie's Hillsboro team has beaten Elkins, tied Beckley, beaten Bridgeport, etc. As I think about it all, my heart goes quiet. The English Colony at Mingo, Lawyer Wilson, "G.D." Basil, young Jamie, Willie Dilley, Mr. MacQueen - all mixed up with the Frost boys and all the old boys, like Kilroy, who was here, and all the old soldier boys of England and France, mixed somehow, too, with the boys of "Desert Storm." Or if I think down deeper, mixed forever with those Saturday afternoons of joy in the stubble fields of the Sun.

The second accident that day was at 3:30 p.m. on the Airport Road near the Central Union Church. David E. Gainer, of Silver Spring, Maryland, lost control of his car in a curve, slid across the road and hit a car driven by Christopher Mullens, of Marlinton. Mr. Mullens and two of his four passengers suffered cuts and bruises. Mr. Gainer was not hurt. The cars, 1985 and 1989 Chevrolets, had moderate damage.

A 1978 AMC was a total loss following an accident on Rt. 39 at 6:20 p.m. on November 11. Philanie J. Shafer, of Marlinton, travelling east, lost control of the car in the sharp curve just east of Marlinton. It skidded off of the road onto a utility pole and a tree. Ms. Shafer and two passengers were taken to the Pocahontas Memorial Hospital by Marlinton Ambulance.

Another vehicle was a total loss following a single vehicle accident on Rt. 219 at the Seven Hole Run Road on the 12th.

Thomas C. Moats, of Hillsboro, driving a 1988 Mercury, swerved to miss a deer, lost control and went into the ditchline. Mr. Moats and three passengers suffered cuts and bruises in the 7:30 p.m. wreck.

Rt. 92 north of Minnehaha Springs was the site of an accident at 1:45 p.m. on November 21. Involved were a 1984 Chevrolet driven by Donald S. Friel, of Marlinton, and a 1984 Ford pickup driven by William C. Roberts, III, of Charleston. Both vehicles were travelling north. Mr. Friel came up behind Mr. Roberts just after he had pulled out of the USFS road on Wildcat Run. Mr. Friel went to pass the pickup as Mr. Roberts started to make a left turn into a private driveway. The two vehicles collided when they were side by side and the Chevrolet then slid off of the highway. Mr. Friel and a passenger had minor injuries. Mr. Roberts was not injured. The vehicle had moderate damage.

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HEARTWOOD

By Louise McNeill

(Published in The Saturday Evening Post, of August 21, 1948, and reprinted here by special permission graciously given.)

Oak on the hill blew down last night.
Heartwood rotten. It had to go.
A thousand years . . . it was there at dusk,
But this morning . . . no.

Went to the barn to feed the stock,
Noticed the wind was chill.
But I never thought; then I looked up there,
And there was the . . . hill.

Stopped and set my fork in the snow,
Opened the gate, threw Prince his hay;
Put my hand on his neck and said,
"Gone with the old men . . . gone away."

Went back into the house to warm,
Said to Mary, "There's been a blow.
Old oak tree on the hill is down.
Heartwood rotten. It had to go."

The Randolph Review carries a story saying: Louise McNeill, daughter of Professor and Mrs. Douglas McNeill of the College (and Buckeye, this county) had a poem in the Saturday Evening Post last week entitled "Heartwood"—a little poem of the family oak—a "Heartwood" of the home at Buckeye, Pocahontas County—heart of the home because of its sturdiness—for trees have hearts, you know, and are living, breathing things, for all that they cannot speak.

We'd like to quote the poem but would not be permitted to do so without the consent of the Post.

No one knows how long the tree had lived; truly a landmark—perhaps a thousand years, as Louise McNeill said in her poem. At any rate when she saw that the tree was gone she put her hand on the neck of Prince, the family horse and lamented: "Gone with the old men . . . gone away."

Louise McNeill is a very talented woman in her own right but we are inclined to believe that she has also inherited some of her talent from her parents, too. She has been writing for many farm magazines, homelike poems and stories.

That her ability and talent should have been recognized by the Saturday Evening Post is a tribute indeed to the spark within her which she has so well developed.

It seems to be another case of Pocahontas producing another poet and authoress. There must be something in the atmosphere, the soil, the water, the stars, something in nature—maybe the bluegrass of Pocahontas—that is responsible for its sending out into the world so many people who have made names for themselves. Pocahontas county is well named for it has produced a great many modern Pocahontases.

They apparently live and thrive and develop on the "Bluegrass" of human excellence.

Perhaps it is because they lift up their eyes unto the hills—the unseen hills far above the horizon—and that it is from such a source they receive their inspiration.